

The Empire and Christianity

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Africa and Italia. Each had his own entourage minor officials, and the hierarchical principle was observed as rigidly on the lowest rungs of the ladder on the topmost. Autocrats are obliged to rule rough a bureaucracy, a broad-based pyramid of ficialdom which usually weighs heavily upon the unfortunate taxpayer who has to support the entire ructure.

A similar hierarchy of officials prevailed in the dace and the court, from the grand chamberlain >wn through a host of Imperial secretaries to the >ad scullion. The tendency of each was to magnify s office into a department, and to be the master of set of underlings. And it was the policy of Con-antine, as it had been the policy of Augustus, to vent new offices in order to increase the number

officials who looked to the Emperor as their inefactor.*

In the conduct of State affairs the Emperor was sisted by an Imperial council, known as the con-rforium principis. It included the four Praetorian aefects of whom we have spoken ; the quaestor of e palace, a kind of general secretary of state ; the aster of the offices (inagister officiorunf)^\wedge one of hose principal duties was to act as minister of police ; e grand chamberlain {pr<%positus sacri cubiculi}\ ro ministers of finance, and two ministers for war. ne of the finance ministers was dignified with the :le of count of the sacred largesses (comes sacrarum rgitionum) ; the other was count of the private

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td\$(De Vita Const., **iv_M i**).